

# THE HIGH ROADS OF BALLAUGH (1898) \*



In the 1891 census for Ballaugh, William Kneen of Ballamoar was entered as a farmer and also as the Parochial Surveyor for the parish. This post has now gone from parish life but the person who held it was responsible for keeping the High Roads of the parish in good repair. Kneen was assisted by William Cowell of Ballacrosha and John Curphey of the Curragh as High Road Labourers, but he was also able to call upon landowners to assist in repairs by sending carts and labourers for a specific number of days based on an assessment of the size of their farms. The list was published annually in the newspapers. There were—as now—constant grumbles over the state of the roads but the issue arose as to which roads were to be repaired and kept in good order by the Highway Board and which ones were not their responsibility. In 1896, it was reported that “[t]he Board have personally inspected most of the main roads of the Island, and find them in a good state of repair.” However,

A report having been laid before the Board, asking for repairs to be undertaken on numerous bye-roads, copies of the same have been submitted to the various members of the Board, who are making inquiries as to the roads in their respective districts.

Due to a resolution of Tynwald of 30 March 1897, action was taken:

The Board, accompanied by the Surveyor-General and their Secretary, have personally inspected the whole of the main roads and all bye-roads of any importance throughout the Island, including the whole of the bye-roads brought to the notice of His Excellency by certain members of the House of Keys—the list of such roads prepared by them having been handed by His Excellency to the Board.

The Surveyor-General of the Highways, another wondrous title now gone along with the post, was the Government official who co-ordinated the work of the Parochial Surveyors. Drawn up that year and published in 1898 was a list of the High Roads in each parish it making clear which ones the Highway Board did maintain. This is the entry for Ballaugh.

## BALLAUGH PARISH

Ballaugh to Brough-jiarg Farm.—This road is not a public road, it is a private road leading to the Brough-jiarg farms, with gates on the road.

---

\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The High Roads of Ballaugh (1898),” *Ballaugh Heritage Trust Newsletter* 14 (2016), 9–10a.

Bolin-jiarg-road.—This road is in fairly good condition, with the exception of about a quarter of a mile in length in the middle. This part is cut through a deep sand bank. In windy weather the sand drifts almost block up the roadway and it is cannot very easily be kept clear. The east and west ends of the this road are used by the adjoining farmers, and it leads out at each end to public roads. Traffic light; only local. Kept in repair by the board.

Road from Collister's (joiner) through Curraghs to Gob-e-volley and cross-roads.—This road with the cross-roads leading from it are all in fairly good order. The traffic on them is considerable. Kept in repair by the board. Very costly to get metal for repairs.

Ballacrye-road and cross-roads.—This road and cross-roads are in good order, recently coated with quarry rubbish and gravel. There is a good deal of traffic on these roads, confined mostly to farmers in the district who work land in the Curraghs. It is very difficult to get metal in the neighbourhood for repairs. Kept in repair by the board.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2016

